



Northeastern celebrates Boston scholars as 'future leaders'

By John Natale

President Joseph Aoun, Mayor Thomas Menino and Superintendent Michael Contompasis join Boston scholarship recipients at Northeastern's Curry Student Center. HERATCH EKMEKJIAN

University and city officials lauded 45 of Boston's most dynamic high school seniors for the drive that landed them scholarships to join the university's fall freshman class.

These Boston residents have all earned scholarships based on their exemplary academic success, community leadership and intellectual promise.

At a recent dinner celebrating the students, Northeastern President Joseph Aoun pronounced them "the future leaders of this city." He cited the importance of experiential learning and community focus as means to develop into civic leaders — specifically, skills gained through summer work, summer internships, and overall engagement.

Mayor Thomas Menino echoed Aoun's sentiments, stating, "I am confident you'll continue to have a positive impact on the city of Boston. Work hard. Continue working hard for the next four years ... and the future is yours."

School Superintendent Michael Contompasis also joined the celebration.

This year, seven different kinds of scholarships were awarded to 42 Boston residents from a diverse range of public schools in and outside the city. The Boston Public High School, Ellen Jackson and Torch scholarships provide full tuition, room and board, and the Balfour, Neal F. Finnegan and Boston Housing Authority scholarships provide full tuition. The Ujima Scholarship awards varying levels of support.

Building on the evening's theme of personal growth and leadership, Menino complimented Northeastern and Aoun's mission of excellence and distinction.

"We are fortunate to have the president we have at Northeastern University," the mayor said. "Watch Northeastern. It's going to keep growing — not just in this city, but worldwide — because of (Aoun's) drive."

This year's scholarship winners, and their schools:

The Boston Public High Schools Scholarship

Eris Bame, Brook Farm Business and Service Career Academy
Elfrieda Campbell, Community Academy of Science and Health
Wendy Chan, Academy of the Pacific Rim
Anh Chung, Excel High School
Timon Cooney, Boston Latin School
Luis Escobar, East Boston High School
Peter Georgiev, John D O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science
April Lamrock, Health Careers Academy
Jiahui Liao, Health Careers Academy
Jean Loreus, Urban Science Academy
Erin Maiullari, Boston Collegiate Charter School
Shannell Parson, Edward G. Noonan Business Academy
Jillian Rose, Monument High School
Yanelin Salerno, The Engineering School
Juan Santos, Muriel S. Snowden International School at Copley
Genta Spaho, Boston Community Leadership Academy
Kamil Supronik, Excel High School
My Chi Tran, East Boston High School
Sebastian Witkowski, Boston Community Leadership Academy

The Neal F. Finnegan Scholarship

Gordon Forbes, Newton North High School

The Boston Housing Authority Scholarship

Antwionette Andrews-Clark, John D O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science
Maria Fontes, Parkway Academy of Technology and Health
Phong Pham, TechBoston Academy

The Balfour Academy Scholarship

Kierra Cook, Boston Latin School
Tuuyen Dao, Boston Latin Academy
Betty Jasper, John D O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science
Meisha Swaby, John D O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science

The Ujima Scholarship

Dashawn Bristol, John D O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science
Lindsay Carrasquillo of Boston, Newton North High School
Jessica Cetoute, John D O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science
Davina Ashley Griffith, John D O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science
Jenee Hampton, Fenway High School
David Kamara, Wellesley High School
Charissa McMullen, Belmont High School
Jairo Montero, Boston Latin Academy
Yennifer Pedraza, Boston Latin Academy
Jennifer Quintero, John D O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science
Wensess Raphael, Academy of the Pacific Rim
Kelly Vilella, Boston Day and Evening Academy

The Torch Scholars Program

Glenny Reynoso, Edward G. Noonan Business Academy
Chynah Tyler, Prospect Hill Academy Charter School

The Ellen Jackson Boston Public High School Scholarship
Badewa Fashote, Boston Latin Academy

Luis Escobar, 2005-07 East Boston Representative on the Mayor's Youth Council, was the recipient of a scholarship to Northeastern University.

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